PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTIONS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Box: Patent Application

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1, lines 2-3, please revise the paragraph to read as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/440,523, filed November 15, 1999, allowed, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/864,473, filed May 28, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,027,889, and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/018,532, filed May 29, 1996.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 11-28 and 35-50.

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REMARKS

The changes to the specification resulting from the above amendments are shown in attached Appendix A.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 30, 2001

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Appendix A

Version of Amended Claims With Markings to Show Changes Made

In reference to the amendments made herein to the specification, additions appear as underlined text, while deletions appear as bracketed text, as indicated below:

In the Specification:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/440,523, filed November 15, 1999, allowed, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/864,473, filed May 28, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,027,889, and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/018,532, filed May 29, 1996.